

## **REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**STATE: NEBRASKA 2004**

**DATE: 9/23/05**

### **STATE SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE REPORT (Add additional sheets if necessary.)**

Describe activities and an overview of how the activities were accomplished. Include milestones, and positive outcomes achieved. Compare accomplishment of planned performance goals with the attainment of the performance indicators identified by the State in the annual plan.

#### **PY 2004 Overview:**

Nebraska's rural and urban economy reported small, consistent growth during 2004. The Unemployment Rate in Nebraska decreased slightly from 4.0% in 2003 to 3.8% in 2004 and Unemployment Insurance weekly claims declined, with a 14% drop in Unemployment Insurance benefit payments from 2003 to 2004. Further, the average number of unemployed Nebraskans decreased from 39,370 in 2003 to 37,458 in this same year. Nebraskans continue to struggle to find adequate jobs at a sustainable and livable wage; however, this glimpse of economic rebound in 2004 provides hope that the positive impact on the number of Unemployment Insurance weekly claims, as well as decrease in the number of unemployed Nebraskans will continue.

#### **PY 2004 Reemployment Services Plan Overview:**

As described in the PY 2004 plan, Nebraska was pleased with the manner in which the Re-employment Services program evolved in PY 2003 and felt that maintaining the program with the expansion of the three categories of claimants would allow Nebraska the ability to serve a larger population of UI claimants and sustain the goal of increasing claimant employability through early intervention.

Continued review of the U.I. Eligibility Review Program (ERP) and the Re-employment Services Program confirmed the unpredictability in the distribution of profiled claimants across the rural counties as well as reflecting a 30% decrease across the state overall. Therefore, during PY 2004, to insure that re-employment services were not only available but actually delivered in all Workforce Development Career Centers, Nebraska continued to focus efforts toward the expansion of the target population of Category Two of Unemployment Insurance claimants by increasing the number of clients invited to orientation by 66%.

**Category Two** is a claimant not selected through profile who has received at least two weeks of U.I. benefits. This was previously a claimant who had received five weeks of benefits; however, it was determined during PY 2004 that referring these claimants to Re-Employment Services sooner in their claim would ultimately allow for quicker transition to the goal of employment.

New procedures and enhanced technical assistance to the Workforce Development Career Centers and U.I. Claim Centers staff continued to be a focus of the Unemployment Insurance Division and the Office of Workforce Services during PY 2004. Efforts continue on building a report that will allow the U.I Office to receive information from the SASi system regarding claimants who have received a payment, but are not registered with the Employment Services office. Likewise, PY 2005 will continue to build upon the need to maintain and continue building reporting capacities in the Re-employment Services program.

Outcome: The expansion of the Re-Employment Services program in Nebraska continued to prove to be a worthy endeavor during PY 2004. During PY 2004 all Career Centers received and served Unemployment Insurance Claimants profiled either through the Category 1 system or Category 2 profiling system that was established in a joint effort between The Office of Workforce Services and The Unemployment Insurance Office. During PY 2004 Nebraska served 1250 Category 1 claimants. Likewise, 2303 Category 2 claimants were scheduled to participate in the Re-employment services program, with 1370 reporting to receive services.

### **Performance Goals:**

The goal to increase the number of UI claimants reported to Re-Employment Services by 30% as reflected on the ETA 9048 report and the SASi information system was exceeded in PY 2004. The number of UI claimants reporting to Re-Employment Services during PY 2004 as compared to PY 2003 increased by 42% as reflected on the UI 9048 quarterly reports. It should also be noted that during PY 2004, 59% of the Category 2 clients that were invited to orientation reported for services, for a total of 1370 additional clients reporting to and receiving Re-Employment Services.

The goal to reduce the duration of profiled UI claimants receiving benefits by one week as reflected on the ETA 9049 report is unable to be measured at this time as the UI 9049 quarterly reports for PY 2004 are not yet available.

The goal to reduce the rate of UI benefit exhaustion by 5% as reflected on the ETA 9049 report is unable to be measured at this time as the UI 9049 quarterly reports for PY 2004 are not yet available

As both the Unemployment Insurance rate and the number of unemployed Nebraskans decreased during PY 2004, Nebraska believes that the PY 2004 Re-Employment Plan was successful overall. This success was accomplished by continuing to foster the relationship between the Re-Employment Services program and the Office of Unemployment Insurance in the joint effort of expanding the target UI client categories as discussed above, making management information systems changes, providing new policy, procedure and reporting guidance, along with technical assistance to all Career Center and UI Claim Center staff and sustaining a more focused approach toward reporting and performance outcomes. In conjunction with a growing economy, Nebraska is confident that the continued maintenance of the Re-Employment Services program will continue to benefit the State by increasing the number of UI claimants served, thereby decreasing the length of Unemployment Insurance benefit weeks claimed.

**ETA 9100**